EXHIBIT I

Privileged

From: "Millot, Marius" <millot1@llnl.gov>
Date: April 17, 2023 at 7:59:58 PM EDT
Subject: Re: [EXT] Gentle reminder Re: Request for your assistance, from the University of Rochester - MM

Hi Steve
I am in.

Many thanks,
Marius

Marius Millot
millot1@llnl.gov

From: Dewhurst, Stephen <Stephen_Dewhurst@URMC.Rochester.edu>
Sent: Sunday, April 16, 2023 4:39 PM
To: Millot, Marius <millot1@llnl.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXT] Gentle reminder Re: Request for your assistance, from the University of Rochester - MM

Thank you

Would 6-6:30p EDT tomorrow work?

Best regards

Steve

****

Steve Dewhurst
He/him/his
Interim Vice President for Research
Vice Dean for Research, School of Medicine & Dentistry
University of Rochester
Cell: (585) 797 7840 stephen_dewhurst@urmc.rochester.edu

On Apr 16, 2023, at 7:29 PM, Millot, Marius <millot1@llnl.gov> wrote:

Hi Stephen
I gave much consideration to this situation. I am inclined to help, but I would like to ask a few additional questions before fully committing to sitting on the panel. Shall we setup a zoom/webex meeting?
I'm available tomorrow from 6:30 to 11:30 AM PST and after 3PM.

Many thanks,
—
Marius Millot
(He/Him/His)
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
—

On April 14, 2023 at 1:54:44 PM PDT, Dewhurst, Stephen <Stephen_Dewhurst@URMC.Rochester.edu> wrote:

> On Apr 13, 2023, at 4:12 PM, Millot, Marius <millot1@llnl.gov> wrote:
>
> Dear Stephen
> Thanks for your message. I did notice your request yesterday and I will be in touch.

Dear Marius

Thanks so much for getting back to me, and thank you also for these thoughtful questions.

I need to inquire with my institution.

Understood - and thank you for doing so.

I am honored for the request and I have no COI. I realize the outmost importance and responsibility of this investigation.

Thank you! I very much appreciate it

I do have a few questions.

What would be the framework for this investigation? I noticed that the typical investigation s at U of R are conducted by faculty members.

This investigation will be conducted by 3 experts from outside the UR, and will not include UR participants. It will address some detailed questions in connection with the 2020 Nature and 2021 PRL papers authored by Dr. Dias that I can share with you once you've agreed in principle to help us. The investigation will be carried out in accordance with the UR's "Policy on Research Misconduct" - with the exception that the committee will be completely comprised of experts from outside the UR.

Under normal circumstances, our policy stipulates an investigative committee comprised of at least 3 UR faculty members, including a member of the UR's Research Policy Committee (RPC). In the present case, we think an external-only committee provides greater assurance of the impartiality and non-conflicted nature of the review process - which is important given the prominence of the research findings, and the considerable public attention to this matter. It's also relevant to add that I don't think that we actually have 3 non-conflicted faculty members within the University who have the necessary scientific credentials (and who haven't contributed to our earlier inquiries).

Would i be allowed to see the conclusions of any previous investigations conducted by U of R on this matter ?

Yes, we will share our previous inquiries into matters related to Dr. Dias' 2020 Nature paper with the investigation team, on a confidential basis.

Please be aware that the UR's "Policy on Research Misconduct" (see above) stipulates a two-step process. An initial inquiry is conducted to determine whether sufficient evidence exists to move to a full investigation. Our previous two inquiries did not determine that sufficient evidence existed to warrant a full investigation. However, new evidence and concerns has since come to our

attention, and we believe that it is necessary as a result to proceed to a full investigation.

> Would my identity be revealed to other members of the panel, to Dr Dias and colleagues, to the public, to NSF? How many people would constitute the panel ?

The panel will comprise 3 scientists from outside the UR, who will meet as a group to conduct aspects of their work (see below). As a result, your identity will be revealed to the other members of the panel.

The UR's "Policy on Research Misconduct" also stipulates that "the committee shall give the respondent a copy of its draft investigation report", meaning that the identity of the panel members will be known to Dr. Dias.

We also plan to share the report with NSF, so NSF will also know the membership of the panel.

Finally, it is neither the UR's intention, nor its policy, to make the report publicly available. However, it is possible that NSF may choose to make the report (or parts of the report) public, should the report conclude that research misconduct did indeed occur.

> What is the timeframe?

We are asking that the investigation be complete within 120 days, per the UR's above-referenced policy (i.e., by July 17, 2023 if we were to initiate things on Monday, or a little after that if we start in the middle of the week). The respondent (Dr. Dias) will have 30 days thereafter to respond (August 17, 2023) - and we would then ask the committee to submit its final report to the University within 2 weeks of that date. That report will be shared with NSF.

> Would the investigation be restricted to the two papers you sent links to, or would it include other publications for which allegations of misconduct have been made ?

Just these two papers. Please note that we are aware of accusations of plagiarism related to Dr. Dias's PhD thesis. However, that is a matter for the thesis-awarding institution to investigate (Washington State University), and thus falls outside the scope of this investigation of his activities as a UR faculty member.

> Would the investigation require in person / web meetings ?

We presume that the committee will complete its work via Zoom or via web-based meetings. This would include meetings with Dr. Dias, if deemed necessary by the committee. UR will also provide the committee access to any additional information it deems necessary for its work.

Would my participation be Pro Bono ?

Yes. We believe that providing financial compensation for this important service to the scientific community might create the potential appearance of a conflict of interest.

I hope these responses address your questions adequately, and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely

Steve

Many thanks,
—
Marius Millot
(He/Him/His)
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
—

On April 13, 2023 at 12:16:16 PM PDT, Dewhurst, Stephen <Stephen_Dewhurst@URMC.Rochester.edu> wrote:

Dear Dr Millot

Just a gentle reminder.

Many thanks for considering

Sincerely

Steve Dewhurst

****

Steve Dewhurst
He/him/his
Interim Vice President for Research

Vice Dean for Research, School of Medicine & Dentistry
University of Rochester
Cell: (585) 797 7840
stephen_dewhurst@urmc.rochester.edu

On Apr 12, 2023, at 3:48 PM, Dewhurst, Stephen <Stephen_Dewhurst@urmc.rochester.edu> wrote:

Dr. Marius Millot (LLNL)
Research Scientist, LLNL
millot1@llnl.gov
(925) 422-6359
https://people.llnl.gov/millot1

Dear Dr. Millot

I'm writing to request your assistance with a formal investigation by the University of Rochester into certain allegations of research misconduct against one of our faculty members, Dr. Ranga Dias.

This matter is of great importance not only to the University, but more broadly to the global superconductivity research community, and of course also to the career and reputation of Dr. Dias.

To ensure this investigation is conducted with impartiality and scientific rigor, it is our strong preference that it be conducted by persons external to the University of Rochester, and persons with technical expertise relevant to the matter at hand. ***With that in mind, I'm writing to ask if you would consider helping us - and the broader scientific community - by participating as a member of the investigative panel for this issue?***

If you'd be be kind enough to help us, I also need to ask if you have a current or previous personal or professional relationship with Dr. Dias that could be considered a conflict of interest. The same consideration also applies to each of the coauthors on the two scientific publications which form the primary focus of this investigation:
1. Snider et al. Nature, 2020
and
2. Snider et al. PRL, 2021

In making this determination about potential COI, I ask that you please consult NSF Form 1230P, Conflicts-of-Interests and Confidentiality Statement for NSF Panelists for guidance.

Finally, please also let me know if you feel that you cannot conduct this review objectively and without bias (e.g., if you have any affiliation or relationship that might negatively affect your objectivity, or if you have a pre-formed opinion about the matter of scientific misconduct in this instance).

I ask that you please keep this request in confidence.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read and consider this email.

Sincerely

Steve Dewhurst

****
****
Steve Dewhurst
He/him/his

Interim Vice President for
Research
Vice Dean for Research, School
of Medicine & Dentistry
University of Rochester
Cell: (585) 797 7840
stephen_dewhurst@urmc.roch
ester.edu

++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++

Steve Dewhurst
Interim Vice President for Research
Vice Dean for Research, School of Medicine & Dentistry
University of Rochester
stephen_dewhurst@urmc.rochester.edu
Cell: (585) 797 7840